



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 28, 2003

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REPLACEMENT FOOD STAMPS BENEFITS APPROVED BENEFITS AUTOMATICALLY ADDED WITHOUT HAVING TO VISIT OR CALL LOCAL DHS OFFICE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Tens of thousands of Shelby County residents who rely on food stamps and lost their food because of the power outage will be able to get that food replaced.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services, which administers the Food Stamps Program for the USDA, announced that recipients will be able to receive replacement benefits without having to call or come into their local DHS office. The benefits will appear on affected recipients' Food Stamps electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards automatically.

"Due to the large number of recipients who lost food, we wanted to do this in the most efficient and effective way possible. We are programming our computers so the benefits will show up automatically," said DHS Deputy Commissioner Ed Lake. "We are hopeful that those benefits will appear on recipients' EBT cards by Wednesday of this week."

The Department today received approval from the USDA to supply replacement benefits for the thousands of Shelby County residents who lost their food as a result of the power outage.

For more information on the Food Stamps Program, visit the DHS website at:
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/foodstamps.htm>

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